

your cooperation on this measure and the able assistance of David Kavanaugh of your staff.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,  
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, June 17, 2004.

Hon. RICHARD W. POMBO,  
Chairman, *Committee on Resources, Longworth  
House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN POMBO: Thank you for your letter dated June 3, 2004, regarding H.R. 884, the "Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act." As you have noted, the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over Section 3(c)(3) of S. 618, the Senate companion bill to H.R. 884. I appreciate your agreement to amend the text of H.R. 884 and include the language passed by the Senate, thus avoiding any potential Constitutional problems. Further, I appreciate your recognition that this agreement does not prejudice the jurisdictional interests and prerogatives of the Committee on Ways and Means on this provision or any other similar legislation, and it should not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to the Committee in the future.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation with this issue. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,  
Chairman.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
AMELIA, OHIO NATIVE ARMY  
SERGEANT CHARLES A. KISER,  
WHO DIED IN IRAQ

### HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 6, 2004*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Army Sergeant Charles A. Kiser, a brave soldier, who died Thursday, June 24, 2004, in an explosion near Mosel, Iraq. Sergeant Kiser is a native of Clermont County, OH, an area I represent.

Sgt. Kiser grew up in Amelia, OH, attended St. Bernadette School, and began competing in track in the third grade. He graduated from McNicholas High School in 1985, where he was a champion sprinter and later a member of the University of Cincinnati's track team. It is said that he was one of the most talented sprinters ever at U.C. Several of Sgt. Kiser's records still stand at U.C., including the 300 yard dash indoors and the 300 meters.

After a year at the University of Cincinnati, he left to join the Navy. He spent 7 years in active duty, mostly in Italy, where he met his wife, Debbie, who was also in the Navy. Sgt. Kiser followed that with 7 years in the Naval Reserve.

They settled in Wisconsin, and had two children, Alicia and Mark. Two years ago, Sgt. Kiser joined the Army Reserve and trained at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin. He left for Iraq in late 2003 with the 330th Military Police Detachment, based in Sheboygan.

Close to his family, Sgt. Kiser grew up with six women: his mother and five sisters, all of whom still live in the Clermont County area. Last night, there was a community-wide cele-

bration of Sgt. Kiser's life at the Clermont County Courthouse in Batavia.

All of us in the Cincinnati area are grateful for Sgt. Kiser's service to our country, and express our deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

THOMAS F. FARLEY RETIRES AS  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FOR  
THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION'S NORTHERN  
VIRGINIA DISTRICT

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 6, 2004*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Tom Farley to transportation efforts in northern Virginia. For the past 11 years, Tom has served as district administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) northern Virginia district which is the most populated and congested area of the Commonwealth.

District administrator for northern Virginia is a difficult job which often bears the brunt of public scrutiny. He is often on the front line when someone has a complaint about roads, snow, or potholes. Nevertheless, Tom has excelled because he is adept at bringing people together to find transportation solutions.

In the course of his career, Tom has worked with hundreds of citizens, homeowners, community groups, and elected officials. Tom has personally been a friend to me and helped with many projects that have benefitted the 10th District. He has also been involved in almost every major transportation issue in northern Virginia in the past 11 years including the Springfield Interchange, the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge, Route 50 traffic calming, the Fairfax County Parkway, and the Capital Beltway Safety Study.

I want to thank Tom for his contributions to northern Virginia and wish him the best as he retires from VDOT knowing that he has been a true public servant to the people of Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO COUNCIL MEMBER-  
AT-LARGE, DONALD K. TUCKER

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 6, 2004*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished public servant from my district. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to recognize Councilman Donald Tucker for his 30 years of service to the City of Newark. This is a major accomplishment, and its celebration is a well deserved honor for Councilman Tucker. Having served on the City Council and Southward Democratic Committee with Councilman Tucker, I can attest to his dedication to our community and would like to share a few of his many passions, projects, and accomplishments with you today.

Since 1974, Councilman Tucker has devoted his time and energy to the pursuit of enhancing the quality of life for the residents of Newark. As the senior member of the City Council, he has the historical perspective that

makes him a nationally prominent municipal leader. In addition to serving as the President of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBCLEO) for four years, he was on the Executive Board of the National League of Cities. He has been pro-active in his efforts to assist in making Newark a "Model City." Councilman Tucker is founder and State Chairman of the renowned Black Issues Convention (NJBIC). Under his leadership, NJBIC is the longest serving State Black Issues Convention in the country. He is the main operative of the annual "Newark Day" observance in Atlantic City during the State League of Municipalities Convention.

In addition to his duties as a Councilman, Donald Tucker finds time to serve the community in other ways. He serves on several advisory boards and has received numerous awards and citations for his dedicated service. Always an advocate for children and senior citizens, Councilman Tucker is the founder of The Centre, Inc., a community services multipurpose center that serves these individuals.

I salute Councilman Tucker for his dedication to our community and I am proud to have him in my district. Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to Councilman Tucker, and I invite my colleagues to join me in sending our sincere congratulations and best wishes as he celebrates 30 years of service to Newark's deserving citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS S.  
CURREY FOR HIS HEROIC SERVICE

### HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 6, 2004*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Francis S. Currey for his heroic service during the Second World War. I am very pleased to submit this tribute to Sergeant Currey, as the Town of Fallsburg in Sullivan County, New York prepares to celebrate "Francis Currey Day," designated for July 10, 2004. The day of festivities will pay homage to the outstanding and invaluable service that Sergeant Currey provided to our nation during World War II, which earned him the Medal of Honor. Mr. Currey is the only living native of Sullivan County to have received this distinguished award.

The details of Sergeant Currey's courageous actions are chronicled in a citation dated July 27, 1945 and signed by President Harry S. Truman. At the time of the events depicted in the citation, Francis Currey was nineteen years of age. It reads as follows:

"Sergeant Francis S. Currey, U.S. Army, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 120th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division. He was an automatic rifleman with the 3rd Platoon defending a strong point near Malmedy, Belgium, on 21 December 1944, when the enemy launched a powerful attack. Overrunning tank destroyers and antitank guns located near the strong point, German tanks advanced to the 3rd Platoon's position and, after prolonged fighting, forced the withdrawal of this group to a nearby factory. Sergeant Currey found a bazooka in the building and crossed the street to secure rockets meanwhile enduring intense fire from enemy tanks and hostile infantrymen who had